

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

CONGENITAL AND PEDIATRIC GLAUCOMAS—Robert N. Shaffer, M.D., Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; and Daniel I. Weiss, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, New York University School of Medicine, New York City. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. (63103), 1970. 221 pages, with 253 illustrations and 3 color plates, \$20.50.

Congenital and Pediatric Glaucomas by Shaffer and Weiss is an excellent manual of instruction on this complicated group of diseases. The text is clearly written in a way which puts forth the essential information without undue detail. The authors have assumed no previous knowledge of the subject on the part of the reader, yet the didactic material is in no sense oversimplified.

The text is copiously illustrated by both photographs and diagrams. Whereas the photographs are not uniform in quality, and many of them have actually been borrowed from Becker and Shaffer's earlier book, *Diagnosis and Therapy of the Glaucomas*, (2nd Edition, St. Louis, C. V. Mosby Co., 1965), they serve admirably to illustrate the various sections. In my opinion, that function is not particularly well served by the color plates. The latter added little to my education and undoubtedly increased the expense of this small book unnecessarily.

The book has been divided into appropriately arranged chapters which cover the various sub-topics beautifully. The chapter on classification and fundamental considerations begins with a clear set of definitions. It also contains excellent diagrams of fundamental processes connected with tension increases in the eye. The chapters on the phakomatoses and the mesodermal anomalies are particularly well written; they summarize much of the currently established data on a number of syndromes which might ordinarily appear confusing to the casual reader. These sections will be particularly valuable for the pediatrician and for those ophthalmologists who have relatively little occasion to see children. The section on therapy is divided into two chapters: one on medical treatment, the other on surgical treatment. Both are well presented, although the chapter on surgical therapy is certainly more extensive. Here again, the photographs and diagrams are very helpful.

The book is well indexed, and this will also contribute to its usefulness as a manual for the busy ophthalmologist or pediatrician. For all these reasons, I recommend the book highly; and I think that most ophthalmologists will find it a useful and up-to-date text.

G. RICHARD O'CONNOR, M.D.

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OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC SURGERY—Fourth Edition—Sidney A. Fox, M.S. (Ophth.), M.D., Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, New York University School of Medicine; Visiting Ophthalmologist, Bronx, V.A. Hospital, Goldwater Memorial Hospital and Hospital for Joint Diseases and Medical Center. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. (10017), 1970. 590 pages, \$29.75.

Residents and practitioners of ophthalmology have used the first three editions of *Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery* as prime sources of basic, practical information. Like the earlier editions, the latest is well illustrated, clearly written, and soundly grounded in the substantial personal in-

terest and experience of Dr. Fox. The book is clearly didactic rather than encyclopedic. Based as the text is upon the author's own experience and preferences, many variations in surgical approach, particularly some relatively recent techniques, are not covered. Some omissions, such as the absence of differential section of the facial nerve from the discussion of treatment of essential blepharospasm, are unfortunate. While those whose favorite operations have been omitted may complain, the book has the virtue of explaining clearly basic principles and procedures.

All the chapters have been revised, most of them extensively. Rearrangement of the chapter contents to present material in the order of increasing complexity has been executed in the fourth edition. This change is consistent with the author's intention of presenting his subject to the resident or practicing ophthalmologist rather than to the specialist in plastic surgery. Three new chapters include a chapter on radiotherapy by Dr. Joseph Newall, and one chapter on chemosurgery-electrodesiccation by Dr. Perry Robins. These two chapters on controversial subjects conclude with surgical rebuttals by Dr. Fox which help to maintain a balanced perspective.

Purists may object to certain aspects of literary style and to the frequent (sometimes extensive) historical footnotes included in the text. Others will enjoy the casual style and historical commentary which together help to make this book much more readable than most surgical texts.

In summary, this book covers its intended subject clearly and thoroughly. It has no serious competitor as a single, concise and reliable source of basic information for the resident and general ophthalmic surgeon.

ROBERT S. HEPLER, M.D.

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RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY OF THE MIDDLE EAR—Adolph Wolf-erman, M.D., Attending Physician in Otolaryngology: Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital, Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, New York Polyclinic Hospital, Brooklyn, and State University of New York (Downstate Medical Center). Illustrations by Lou Barlow. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. (10017), 1970. 184 pages, \$25.00.

This easily readable, well thought out text is divided into several large categories—physiology, pathology, operative technique, pre- and postoperative care and complications with an interesting and timely final short paragraph on medico-legal implications. Despite its title of "Reconstructive Surgery of the Middle Ear," minimal time is given to reconstruction of the traumatically damaged ear, to the congenital ear, with the vast bulk of the text being devoted to reconstruction of the infection damaged ear or tympano-plastic surgery per se. Rather than being strictly a "how I do it" type text, Dr. Wolf-erman gives recognition to other methods of approach to the same problem in his completely thorough and low key presentation. Valuable as reference material and conservative in outlook, this publication can be put to great use by most otolaryngologists.

BERNARD M. KRAMER, M.D.